

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 197786
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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 197786

EXDIS DISTRIBUTE AS NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, KS, US

SUBJECT: KIM DONG-JO QUESTIONNAIRE PROCEDURES

REF: SEOUL 6898

1. BOTH COMMITTEE STAFFS WERE BRIEFED ON REFTEL AUG. 4.
IN GENERAL WE SEE NO MAJOR DIFFICULTIES WITH YOUR RECOM-
MENDATIONS.

2. PERHAPS YOU SHOULD EASE OFF A BIT IN TRYING TO PIN
DOWN PROCEDURES FOR FOLLOW-UP CLARIFICATION, HOWEVER,
WHILE CONTINUING TO STRESS THE IMPORTANCE OF THE BASIC
PRINCIPLE THAT THE DOOR NOT BE CLOSED.

3. DAN SWILLINGER ON THE SENATE SIDE FEELS THE MECHANISM
YOU HAVE BEEN DISCUSSING WOULD BE WORKABLE FOR HIS
NEEDS. HOWEVER, JOHN NIELDS WOULD PREFER NOT TO BE TIED
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ABSOLUTELY TO DETAILS OF ANY PROCEDURE AT THIS STAGE, ON
THE BASIS THAT SUCH DETAILS MAY BECOME QUITE EASY AFTER
THE BASIC EXCHANGE IF ALL IS GOING WELL. IF THE FIRST
KIM RESPONSE IS GOOD, THEN THE TYPE OF CLARIFYING QUESTIONS
ASKED FROM THIS SIDE SHOULD NOT CAUSE ANY PROBLEMS FOR
THE KOREANS. THIS WOULD BE ANALOGOUS TO THE EASY FLEXI-
BILITY WHICH LATER EMERGED IN THE TONGSUN PARK ARRANGE-

MENTS DESPITE THE HARD BARGAINING WHICH HAD ACCOMPANIED
VERY PRECISE DELINEATION OF DETAILS EARLIER. IN ORDER
TO MEET NIELDS REQUEST THEREFORE, EMPHASIZE OUR BASIC
NEED TO HAVE SOME MEANS TO GET CLARIFICATION, BUT STEP
BACK SOMEWHAT FROM THE PROPOSITION THAT A RIGID DETAILED
PROCEDURE MUST BE WORKED OUT NOW.

4. JOHN NIELDS HAS SUGESTED THAT IF A MAJOR KOREAN
CONCERN IS THAT THE CLARIFICATION COULD BE STRETCHED OUT
INDEFINITELY, THEN HE WOULD BE PREPARED QUIETLY TO
TRAVEL TO SEOUL AT THE TIME A PRELIMINARY RESPONSE WAS
TO BE RECEIVED FROM KIM DONG-JO AND IMMEDIATELY DEAL
WITH THE MATTER ON THE SCENE. WHILE BROACHING WITH THE
KOREANS AT THIS JUNCTURE THE IDEA OF SUCH TRAVEL MIGHT
FURTHER COMPLICATE YOUR PROBLEM THERE, YOU MAY WISH TO
KEEP THIS IDEA ON TAP.

5. THE MEDIA PLAY HERE THUS FAR HAS BEEN QUITE POSITIVE.
WE HAVE NOT YET SEEN THE QUIBBLING SEOUL NEWSPAPER
COVERAGE WHICH YOUR MESSAGE ALLUDED TO.

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